

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A die for forming patterns from a sheet of material, comprising:
a substantially planar plate configured to be secured to a portable die cutting apparatus;
at least one cutting edge protruding from a surface of said substantially planar plate a distance of
about 0.015 inch to about 0.02 inch.
2. The die of claim 1, further comprising:
at least one ejection element associated with said surface of said substantially planar plate.
3. The die of claim 2, wherein said at least one ejection element comprises at least
one compressible, resilient member.
4. The die of claim 3, wherein said at least one compressible, resilient member
comprises a foam.
5. The die of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of said at least one ejection element
is positioned within a periphery defined by said at least one cutting edge.
6. The die of claim 1, wherein said substantially planar plate and said at least one
cutting edge comprise the same material.
7. The die of claim 6, wherein said distance said at least one cutting edge protrudes
from said surface of said substantially planar plate is greater than a thickness of said substantially
planar plate.
8. The die of claim 1, wherein said substantially planar plate comprises at least one
of a magnetic material and a material which is attractable to a magnetic field.

9. The die of claim 1, wherein said substantially planar plate comprises steel.
10. The die of claim 1, wherein said at least one cutting edge comprises steel.
11. The die of claim 1, wherein said substantially planar plate has a thickness of about 0.01 inch.
12. The die of claim 1, wherein, in combination, a thickness of said substantially planar plate and said distance said at least one cutting edge protrudes from said substantially planar plate are about 0.03 inch.
13. The die of claim 1, wherein at least one peripheral dimension of said substantially planar plate is at most about 2 inches.
14. The die of claim 13, wherein said substantially planar plate is rectangular in shape and has peripheral dimensions of at most about 2 inches by about 2 inches.
15. The die of claim 1, wherein at least one peripheral dimension of said substantially planar plate is about 2 inches.
16. The die of claim 15, wherein said substantially planar plate has peripheral dimensions of about 2 inches by about 2 inches.
17. The die of claim 1, wherein said substantially planar plate has dimensions which facilitate compact and portable storage thereof with a plurality of other similarly dimensioned dies.

18. A die for forming patterns from a sheet of material, comprising:
a substantially planar plate;
at least one cutting edge protruding a distance of about 0.015 inch to about 0.02 inch from a surface of said substantially planar plate and formed from the same material as said substantially planar plate.

19. The die of claim 18, further comprising:
at least one ejection element associated with said surface of said substantially planar plate.

20. The die of claim 19, wherein said at least one ejection element comprises at least one compressible, resilient member.

21. The die of claim 20, wherein said at least one compressible, resilient member comprises a foam.

22. The die of claim 19, wherein at least a portion of said at least one ejection element is positioned within a periphery defined by said at least one cutting edge.

23. The die of claim 18, wherein said substantially planar plate comprises at least one of a magnetic material and a material which is attractable to a magnetic field.

24. The die of claim 18, wherein said substantially planar plate and said at least one cutting edge comprise steel.

25. The die of claim 24, wherein said steel comprises spring steel.

26. The die of claim 18, wherein said at least one cutting edge protrudes from said surface of said substantially planar plate a distance that is about the same or greater than a thickness of the sheet of material

27. The die of claim 18, wherein said distance said at least one cutting edge protrudes from said surface of said substantially planar plate is greater than a thickness of said substantially planar plate.

28. The die of claim 18, wherein said substantially planar plate has a thickness of about 0.01 inch.

29. The die of claim 18, wherein, in combination, a thickness of said substantially planar plate and said distance said at least one cutting edge protrudes from said substantially planar plate are about 0.03 inch.

30. The die of claim 18, wherein at least one peripheral dimension of said substantially planar plate is at most about 2 inches.

31. The die of claim 30, wherein said substantially planar plate is rectangular in shape and has peripheral dimensions of at most about 2 inches by about 2 inches.

32. The die of claim 18, wherein at least one peripheral dimension of said substantially planar plate is about 2 inches.

33. The die of claim 32, wherein said substantially planar plate has peripheral dimensions of about 2 inches by about 2 inches.

34. The die of claim 18, wherein said substantially planar plate has dimensions which facilitate compact and portable storage thereof with a plurality of other similarly dimensioned dies.

35. The die of claim 18, wherein said substantially planar plate is configured to be secured to a portable die cutting apparatus.